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29 Mar 88

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INCOMING*Department of State*PAGE 02 OF 03 MADRID 04080 290823Z
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, PM, SP, US

SUBJECT: FM ORDONEZ ON NORIEGA DEPARTURE

1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FM ORDONEZ CALLED ME AT 0900 LOCAL, MARCH 29, ONE HOUR AFTER LANDING IN MADRID ON RETURN FROM COSTA RICA TRIP WITH PM GONZALEZ. ORDONEZ SAID SPANISH PRESS REPORTS (OUTLINED SEPTEL) ON THE PANAMA DISCUSSIONS WERE BASICALLY CORRECT AND COMPLETE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO POINTS THAT WERE BEING HELD PRIVATELY. FIRST, CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ SPOKE TO NORIEGA MARCH 28, AND "IT SEEMS NORIEGA HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE." SECOND, NORIEGA HAS ACCEPTED BISHOP MCGRATH AS MEDIATOR. BOTH PEREZ AND THE BISHOP WILL BE TALKING FURTHER TO NORIEGA TODAY, AND GONZALEZ EXPECTS ALSO TO BE IN CONTACT WITH THEM IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY.

3. IN SUM, ORDONEZ THOUGHT THINGS LOOKED GOOD. AT THE SAME TIME, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN PANAMA WAS TAKING A TURN THAT COULD DERAIL THINGS. HE SAID HE WOULD REMAIN IN TOUCH.

4. I THANKED HIM FOR THE INFORMATION, AND SAID THAT ANYTHING THAT HELPED THE OBJECTIVE OF GETTING NORIEGA OUT FAST WAS



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INFO SWO-01 SSO-01 SSS-01 SSI-01 SS-08 S-02 D-01 P-01 C-01

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